

Where did my car go?

By Officer Franco Libertini

With colder weather here, many people may be tempted to leave their vehicle running in their driveway in order to warm the interior of their car and to help in removing snow and ice from the windows.

Unfortunately, the West Valley City Police Department receives many calls every year from citizens whose vehicles were stolen under just these circumstances. In 2009, sixty-two vehicles were stolen while they were left running in front of a home or in a driveway.

It is a violation of State Law to leave your vehicle unattended. State Law states that a person operating or in charge of a motor vehicle may not permit the vehicle to stand unattended without stopping the engine and removing the key (46-6a-1403).

Also, be aware that some insurance companies will not cover the loss of your stolen car if the car was left running unattended when it was stolen.

When you are tempted to start your vehicle and leave it to warm up while you finish getting ready for work or school, outside gas stations, cash machines and local stores, remember how inconvenient it will be when you step outside and your car is missing. Don't leave your engine running, even if you'll only be gone for a matter of seconds – a thief only needs a few seconds to pounce.

The West Valley Police Department appreciates your help in keeping you and your property safe throughout the year. Report ALL suspicious behavior to the West Valley City Police Department immediately.

Non-Emergency 801-840-4000

Emergency 911